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NOTES.

BASIS OF REFERENCE IN DISCUSSION ON MECHANISM AND VITALISM.

We reprint here from *The Journal of Philosophy, Psychology and Scientific Methods* (Vol. XV, No. 17) "The Basis of Reference" adopted by the Leaders of the Discussion to be held before the American Philosophical Association at its meeting, December 27 and 28, 1918:

"What follows attempts to be an objective statement of the present condition of science, bearing on the problem of Mechanism and Vitalism:

"1. A geometrical description of the universe has been found applicable, without measurable imperfection, to all parts of the universe in so far as they occupy space. All material objects, all living bodies, are geometrical.

"2. A kinematical description of the universe also has been found applicable, without measurable imperfection, to all parts of the universe which occupy space. This description involves time and motion as well as space. All material objects, all living bodies, are kinematic.

"3. A mechanical description, involving the further concept of mass, also has been found applicable, without measurable imperfection, at least to all large masses. All large material objects, all large living bodies, are mechanical.

"4. A physico-chemical description, involving such concepts as chemical composition, differentiation into phases, concentration, and every kind of potential, also has been found applicable, without measurable imperfection, in the preliminary survey of all molecular systems. All living bodies are molecular systems, or, in other words, are physico-chemical.

"5. A description in geometrical, kinematical, mechanical, and physico-chemical terms may be called a *mechanistic* description.

"6. The evidence in favor of the complete validity of the mechanistic description consists in its continuous development without any check, and in the fact that all quantitative measurements are consistent with such a description.

"7. The discrimination of living bodies from other physico-chemical systems rests upon certain common characteristics of the former class of systems. These characteristics are probably best described by the words organization and regulation.[1] It is true, however, that regulation, and perhaps also organization, can occur elsewhere. Living organisms may also be characterized by assigning the words function and teleology to their behavior or their constitution. They are, nevertheless, mechanistic through and through because they are physico-chemical systems, manifesting mechanical phenomena, kinematical phenomena, and geometrical characteristics.

"8. The ascending scale from geometry to physical chemistry and on through the organic to what Spencer calls the super-organic is not to be regarded as a classification which has been worked out with complete success. Nevertheless, the several sciences involved include all the known kinds of natural phenomena, at least below the level of the organic, and perhaps below the level of mind. Moreover, the whole experience of science shows that these several departments of science are strictly additive and cumulative. The kinematical is the geometrical plus something else. The mechanical is the kinematical plus something else, and so on. There is much room for difference of opinion whether these successive increments are homogeneous or heterogeneous. But this is probably a matter of definition or of scale. What is important is the vast induction that they involve only addition."

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[1] The addition of growth, reproduction, nutrition was suggested by one member.

We give below a list of articles in current philosophical magazines:

MIND, XXVII, 107: *H. Rashdall*, The Religious Philosophy of Professor Pringle-Pattison; *C. D. Broad*, A General Notation for the Logic of Relations; *J. E. Turner*, Dr. Bosanquet's Theory of Mental States, Judgment, and Reality; *W. M. Thorburn*, The Rights and Wrongs of a Person (I).

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF THEOLOGY, XXII, 3: *Andrew Edward Harvey*, Martin Luther in the Estimate of Modern Historians; *M. Sprengling*, The Aramaic Papyri of Elephantine in English (Continued); *A. Clinton Watson*, The Primary Problem for an Empirical Theology. II; *James Westfall Thompson*, Church and State in Mediaeval Germany. III; *Elmer Truesdell Merrill*, On "Clement of Rome."

THE MONIST, XXVIII, 3: *William Benjamin Smith*, Mors Mortis; *James H. Hyslop*, Predicaments in Philosophy; *Eugenio Rignano*, The School of To-Morrow; *Victor Delbos*, The Conceptions of the History of Philosophy; *Edward Lawrence*, Prayer. Its Origin, Meaning and Ethical Significance; *James Lindsay*, Rationalism and Voluntarism.

PSYCHOLOGICAL REVIEW, XXV, 4: *H. B. Reed*, Associative Aids: II. Their Relation to Practice and the Transfer of Training; *Rudolf Pintner*, Intelligence as Estimated from Photographs; *Curt Rosenow*, The Genesis of the Image; *Leonard T. Troland*, The Heterochromatic Differential Threshold for Brightness: I. Experimental; *Prentice Reeves*, The Rate of Pupillary Dilation and Contraction.

THE JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY, AND SCIENTIFIC METHODS, XV, 15: *Wilbur M. Urban*, Again, the Value Objective and the Value Judgment: Reply to Professor Perry and Dr. Fisher; *Louise Brink*, How the Concept of the Unconscious is Serviceable; *Wendell T. Bush*, Another Comment on Professor Warren's Analysis of Purpose.

XV, 16: *George Santayana*, Literal and Symbolic Knowledge.

XV, 17: *B. H. Bode*, Consciousness as Behavior; *Henry Bradford Smith*, Non-Aristotelian Logic.

XV, 18: *Hartley B. Alexander*, Metaphysics as a Fine Art; *M. T. McClure*, Pragmatism and Democracy; *Wesley Raymond Wells*, On Religious Values: A Rejoinder.

XV, 19: *F. C. S. Schiller*, Truth and Survival Value; *David F. Swenson*, Sixteen Logical Aphorisms.

XV, 20: *Grace A. deLaguna*, The Empirical Correlation of Mental and Bodily Phenomena; *Rupert Clendon Lodge*, The Division of Judgments.

REVUE PHILOSOPHIQUE, XXIII, 7 and 8: *G. Seailles*, Jules Lachelier· La méthode de réflexion; *J. Sageret*, L'opinion; *A. Rey*, La transmutation et les sciences physico-chimiques; *A. Chiappelli*, Le concept moderne de la philosophie; *L. Dugas*, Habitude et conscience.

XXIII, 9 and 10: *L. Robin*, Études sur la signification et la place de la Physique dans la Philosophie de Platon (Ier article); *G. Milhaud*, Descartes expérimentateur; *H. Piéron*, La mémoire; *G. Belot*, L'avenir de la Religion et le mysticisme moral d'après M. Loisy.

REVUE DE MÉTAPHYSIQUE ET DE MORALE, XXV, 3: *M. de Wulf*, Civilisation et philosophie aux XIIe et XIIIe Siècles; *E. Guillaume*, La théroie de la relativité et le temps universel; *V. Delbos*, L'Art et la Philosophie.

RIVISTA DI FILOSOFIA NEO-SCOLASTICA, X, 3: *Federico Kiesow*, Il processo di Socrate; *Maurice De Wulf*, L'ordine artistico.